THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE.

Its Social, Political and Industrial Organization.

Its Financial, Commercial and Agricultural Resources.

MYS NAVAL AND MILITARY STRENGTH.

BOTH SIDES OF A VEXED QUESTION,

on the present condition and probable destiny vast empire against which most of the leading in Powers are now arrayed. The difficulty of arat the truth in the statements which reach us gh the medium of the Enguish and French journals,

the same results, are periodically repeated? To nestion the philosophy of history replies—igno-l It is, in fact, the want of knowledge which urges as into collision with each other; it is it which alns: it is it which rivets their chains and arms r revenge. How many enmitties and rivalries amongst

er better, wars would be impossible. That under the the of which we groan at present has no other causes, roud of their civilization and their history, two Westnations have rushed into collision with the Russian on, because they have but an imperient acquaintance the latter, and furthermore, because their interests not as yet fully identified with theirs. Ignorant of the sance they might find in this nation—without rediectfor the blows which they were about to foifiet upon it in the same fature day react upon themselves, and in they in the calculate the sources of its welfare, they be tendanger their own prospective interests, they also themselves to be drawn into this war merely beset they saw in Russia a force sometimes inert, like

by Western nations, which, at the time that Russia wastill in her youth, were inflamed with an arcant love for them, although they now repudiate the results of their common nault.

Let us stop here, for this is an exciting question, which might lead us too far. What use is there in recriminating? Why go back to former grievances which will not be again repeated, and of which time and truth slone can repair the wrongs? To the Western nations we would eve be more egutable towards Russia, and to the latter make yourself bet er known.

Consistent with ourselves and true to our promises, we will continue to show to our readers the Russian mation under a light still unfamiliar to them, and which presents, nevertheless, the secret of its mational power and its propersity towards ideas which, natural, legitimate benovolent and peaceable in Russia. Are still and will ever be, in the eyes of the Western mations, idle theories pregnant with storms and revolutions. We propose to speak of the economical organization of the Russian peeple; this organization, which is excited its units and its ensteams. We leave if to those who have some notions of political economy to Judge if this organization, which comes out of the good sense of the people, which has lasted for centuries and has resisted the most terrible trials, deserves to fix their attention and to be studied in a social point of view.

Giffed by nature with qualities which claitinguish the mations of Sclave ories from other races, brought up in the midst of difficulties and amidst the rigors of one of the roughest climates in the world, surrounded by hostile populations, the Russian nation is necessarily compelled to value labor at an early age, and to place reliance only on itself. To this Sclave origin, as well as the relaxive poverty of the soil and the length of the lead reason, is it that we have to account for the great facility with which the Russian learns professions and trades often the most dissinalar. Every Russian peasant is, in fact, a husbandman, and at

It is incontestably to this vivifying principle that Russia owes the fact that it does not know, and what is more, has not to fear for the future, either prolessrianism or pauperism—those two soourges of modern society. And what nation appears at first to be more liable to those evils than Russia, from an ungenerous soil, deleterious inficences, and hardships of all kinds? That principle, in charlog the products of labor in a just proportion, has also the immense advantage of increasing the collective wealth, and at the same time of sparing individual strength. And it is, doubtless, in that equitable assessment of labor that we find the explanation of the complete absence in Russia of all those lame and mained in dividuals, of these puny, languid and pale faces, which are so numerous in other countries, where an unfortunate mechanic is so often obliged to do the work of ten men, in order to support his large family. The robust and handsome frame and the healthy and manly look of the Russian peasant have often and justly astonished foreign travellers.

Russian peasant have often and justly atomished foreign travellers.

In a word, the principle of association is for Russia, as we have already said, the arch and the basis of its nationality, the origina of its internal prosperity, and the plecks of its future grandeur. In the manner in which it is put in motion, in the organizations to which it has given birth, it offers precious elements, and even the solution of great problems to the statesman, to the economist and to the jurisconsuit. There are, in fact, no administrative, legal ar practical difficulties which are not already solved in advance by the good sense of the Russian people. The mir (association of the peasants of the same vitiage) for example, decides all the difficulties of its commune. It has no written laws, but judges by custom, which is a law created by the good sense and the experience of all, and is preserved by tradition and is maintained and respected for its probity. Facre is no case where the over has not been able to decide satisfactorily to all parties, contests which, at first sight,

If we and to the above the fact that the arried vaces care of its sick lends money to such of its members as are in need takes care of their affairs, and that these labor associations represent the atoms of which the Russian empire is composed, it will be admitted that it is the most remarkable, practical and successful solution of the problem of the organization of labor which has yet been effected in any condition of society.

Moscow, Dec. 9, 1855.

I shall now, if you will permit me, speak of our small industries—small for Russia, as they do not produce hundreds of militens, like the cultivation of corn and the to your readers, who, in all probability, have not the least idea of them, remarkable though they are for their

The Russian empire is generally, in Western Europe, supposed to be an agricultural country, and it is affirmed manufactures of Western Europe, the silks and wines of France, the cotton and worden goods and machines of

France, the cotten and women goots and machinal Fraglend, the sugar and colonial products of Anivery. Rotterdam and Hamburg. This, in a general point of view, is trace; for Russia, whatever the riches of her soil may be, cannot satisfy all the wants of her sixty-dire millions of inhabitants, or dispose of the surplus of her products, except in some exceptional cases. When see buys of the nations who provide the medices in her markets, the others age and law which it would be impossible for her to disregard, commerce being but an exchange of services. Nevertheless it is true that Russia is in a condition to co without Europe for some years, and that is he would very soon be able to do without her long enough to lite out her adversariant of the same price in the condition of the word of the condition of the word of the condition of the word of the condition of the word from foreign countries—wines, silks, sugar, weellen and cotton good and machines. It this to be regarded as a benefit or as an evil? This is not the question we have to examine—we merely state it as a fact.

Western Europe, with a view to rain Russia, has been trying to surround her by a continental blockade, but it has only affected her coasts, and has only reacted on her assailants. Coffee and coose have become deared, but those who are accustomed to them can easily put endifference, but as to flax, henry, word and con which she is only partially prevented incoming and consensations. It is not the product of the contract of the

turist? England has a famous vine at Hampton Court, and in Belgium I have seen vineyards in the neighborhood of laege; Russia may as well induge in a similar fancy. No where is it more appropriate than in the warm valleys of the Crimea. There it is not a question of fancy, but of a well established industry which satisfies the wants of our current consumption.

In European Russia there are yearly consumed about nine millions of vectors or 1,048,000 hectolitres of wince how many, do you think, she draws from foreign countries? 1,068,000 vectors, 120,300 hectolitres; sine gathers from her own soil 7,475,000 vedros, more than 200,000 to the country of the Cossacks of the Don. 250,000; in the country of the Cossacks of the Don. 250,000; in the government of Rural Economy at 3,600,000; in the Comment of Rural Economy at 3,600,000 solver roubles. In the year 1835 the visuage did not amount to more than 1,011,209 vedros. By what has been done in the space of fitteen years, you may judge what we can calculate upon doing, not only in this branch of agriculture, but in others, provide interest or necessity pushes us forward. Trans Caucassian Russia, the mother country of the vine, if certain authors are to be believed, produces on an average every year 8,500,000 roubles.

Patriotism shall not overcome my love of truth so far as to nake me exagerate the quality of our wines; in general, notwithe tanding the choice of vines and the two schools of vine dressess founded by the government, they are of an inferior quality, for reasons well known ancessily to be removed, as it is proved by the success obtained in he crown domains and by a great number of rich proprietors, who aimed more at the quality than the quantity. One of the chief costaales to amelorations in this incustry is the want of good calars and the necessity the owners of vines are under of selling their wices while still green. The government has endeavored to provide a remedy by sending to France for good cellarists.

The most favorable countries for the vine i

which produce too much corn for their own consumptien, and whose reighbors have enough of their own.
The whole production of corn trancy is from 48 to 50
millions of vedroe, five millions of which are for Poland. The average vice us 60 kopeks, 2 fr. 40c., per vedro, or 20 censimes per litre. Poland is the only country
in the Russian empire whose population consumes at
the same time a great quantity of braniy and beer; in
Russia the consumption of beer is estimated at fifteen
hundredths of a vedro for each individual; in Poland one
vedro 55; in Ravais als 9 vedtos; in England 4.14.

The cultivation of tobacco is very much extended over
the southern governments, and over the whole tempe
rate region of Russia; the government of Tchernigov
produces yearly 500,000 pouds (8,200,000 kilograms,)
at an average price of 70 kopeks; this gives a tresh income of 2,700,000 rough. to agriculture. But this price is
below the reality, for the commonest tobacco is sold on
the spot where it is produced at 60 to 80 kopeks per
poud, and sometimes at 1½ soub; superior qualities
is the from 2 to 15 roubles.

The resting of sikworms is in European Russia of recent Cate; but has been greatly promoted by the measures taken by the government; numerous plantations
of muberries have been created in regions where the
soil is adjusted to them, and even elsewhere. The chief
seat of this industry is in our transcaucsian provinces,
where the annual quantity gathered is about 30,000
ponds—450,000 kilogrammes.

U-barply the Tarars, who devote themselves specially
to this industry, are as ignorant as negligent. The silk
of the Cancasus is, therefore, generally of bad quality;
it is sold on the apot from 40 to 50 roubles, per poud,
the finest from 80 to 100 roubles. In Moscow it is only
empioyed in common tissues, or for woofs.

Cur silk manufactories onsume on an average 44,000
ponds—450,000 kilogrammes.

Curs this manufactories on the result of the columning of the productive force of this industry, the production being fifteen mill

sail and the facility of fattening cattle with the reviewe. The consumption of colonial sugar is about 2,000,000 ponds.

On the whole, whatever may be the advantages resulting from the indigenous sugar factories in an agricultural point of view, I think that certain obstacles, the removal of which cannot be foreseen, such as the scarcity of fuel, the working by corose, and, consequently, the want of good workmen, will ever prevent them from becoming of amoir importance in Russia. We have establishments admirably managed which yield large profits, but most of them are in an importect state, and are far from diminishing prices by their competition with colonial sugar. They are not, is fact, in a position to sell without loss their products noder the normal rates, which are very high. "This industre," says M. Tegoborsky, "would be very prejudicial to the interests of the consumer: if it required, irrevecably and without decrimination, the continuation of the present duties upon colonial sugar." It would prove no less prejudicial to the interests of the consumer: for interests of the consumer: for interests of the consumer; but not a more extended consumption—as natural consequence of a sensible fall in prices. We may, therefore, assume that this industry will have to undergo a crisis as soon as it is brought under the common and, the well established factories will alone resist the shock. This is an unavoidable misfortune, but the industry in itself will issue from it healthier and stronger.

These are what I call the small industries of Russia, some of them are still in their first stage of developement; but all hough new born they already occupy a large lace in our industrial system, as you must have already seen by perusing these notes.

SOCIAL, POLITICAL, LITERARY AND ARTISTICAL GOSSIP OF ST. PETERBURG.

[From the Brussels paper, Le No.d.]

St. Peterbuung, Nov. 28, (Dec. 11,) 1855.

Last Saturday the court celebrated, by a solemn act, the anniversary of St. George, the patron of our military order—an order generally esteemed, and which will be more prized at that time of national war. The Emperor wished to express his particular esteem to the brave defenders of their country who had gained the Crose of St. George on the battle field. The day was inaugurated by divine service in the chaps of the Winter Palace, as high dignitaries of the court, all the chevaliers of the milit ry erder, and all the officers of the grand; the army and the fleet at present in St. Petersburg. At 4 o'clock a grand banquet of five hundred covers was served in the large white hall of the palace, to which all the chevaliers of St. George were invited. The Emperor gave his arm to her Majesty the Queen Dewager of the Netherlanas. Teasts were proposed to the health of the shavilers of the order. The ersion chevalless present were Prized III three Grand Croses of the Order of St. George of the second class. At present there are but two Grand Croses of the forder of St. George of the second class. At present there are but two Grand Croses of the first class—the Marshal Prince of Warnaw and Fleld Marshal Count Radetsky. After cinner all the guests were invited to the apartments of the Emperor, where his Majesty expressed in the most fattering turns his acknowledgment of the services they had rendered to their country.

On the following cay (clendry) the population of St. John Charles and the palace of the services they had rendered to their country and the services they had rendered to their country.

On the following cay (clendry) the population of St. John Charles and the palace of the services of the services they had rendered to their country.

On the following cay (clendry) the population of St. John Charles and the services of the services of

6 To the celebrated Russian comedian, a gift from the Paris tragediama."

Our worthy compatriot is the parent of a numerous and honorable family, to whom he has given an excellent education. None of his children, however, have followed the drawatic career. He is honored and esteemed by the seciety of Moscow, and I should not be nationalished to hear of his file in the ancient capital being one of the most brilliant that has lately taken place there.

We also learn from Moscow that the works of Professor Grenovsky are to be collected and published in on.

happy idea of publishing a lithographic copy of it, ha already received on ers for 1,200 copies from the Univer-sity of Moscow alone.

THE TARTARS OF THE VALLEY OF THE BAIDAR.

THE TARTAINS OF THE VALLEY OF THE BAIDAR.

[From Le Nord, Dec. 18.]

The valley of Baidar, one of the finest and the most picturesque of the peninula, forms the northern slope of the grand chain of the mountains of Jain, surrounded on the west and south by an uninterrupted chain of the cast. It forms a vast table land of twelve verste in length and eight in width shut me nal sides by mountains covered with thick forests.

This valley presents an aspectaltegether different from those of the other neighboring valleys of the southern coast; there the hand of man, reconcide by a magnificent climate, has amployed all his art to embellish still more what nature has aircade made so beautiful, so rich; along the whole extended line of coast he has planted in the gorges of the mountain, in the valleys as well offelt vineyards, gardens, and an innumerable quantity of flowers and strange plants; be has built painces, constructed inch habitations of an architecture tuil of taste; woods of aircone, and olives, and alleys of cypress abound there; and we ree growing and ripening oranges, citrons, promegnantes, chesinure, figs, and peaches of the greatest size and exquisite taste.

In the valley of Endants well, the modified by the and of man; this is a nature savage and severe. A ten., orasture comparatively kwar, and tempered still more by the cold winds which blow from Jalia; the peculiar situation of the valley, cut off by me mountains which surround it on all sides, from the moderating indusence of the sea bacezes, all that opposes recious imperiments to ... establishment of vineyards, to the plantation of fruit trees, and of other plants of a pecies more delicate—cultivation, which shows itself with marvellous facility, not silve to the foot of the near the near the stablishment of vineyards, to the plantation of fruit trees, and of other plants of a pecies more delicate—cultivation, which shows itself with marvellous facility and of the same hards of the surface of the near the content of the planters in the locality, w

RUSSIAN AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

(From the Brussels Heralo, Dec. 31.)

When alluding to an unknown country we cite China or the antipodes, yet Europe may supply us with examples without traveling so far. Russia, for instance, has no wall separating it from the rest of the work; on the contrary. It is joined to western Europe by sea and land, and connected with it by gred reads, a railway and pole-distriction. The contrary is a supplied to the vascels of all nations; nor are its fronters inacces, the except only to the propagandist or the political agitater. By means of the electric telegraph, St. Petersburg is in communication with Vienna, Berlin, Paris and London, and yet, Russias as as unknown to the rest of Furope as either Japan or Tonkin.

That Western Europe should be misiaformed respecting the civil institutions of the country; that it should be unable to seize on or appreciate the various manners and constems of a wast empire, and those local necessities which would sufficiently explain the internal policy of the civil institutions of the country; that it along the propagand of the conomy and producing power of a peope with whom all have carried on commercial relations for forty ears, this really seems almost impossible, yet it is nevertheless most true.

Hyperquice and party spirit have clouded the writings of public men who have treated of Russia, so routine and ignorance have palpably affected the observations of economists when alluding to that country; let us, however, and the propagand of the country; let us, however, and the propagand of the country; let us, however, and the propagand of the country of much an amount of much and approach to a country of much narrower limits.

This cremised, we enter at once on our subject.

With reference to Russia, it is always a marter of surprise that its produce should be so little diversified, and that a soil so fettile, and structer limits.

This cremised, we enter at once on our subject.

With reference to Russia, it is always a marter of surprise that i

low to Western Europe; with the Black Sea, by the Dzieper, which bears on its waters the harvests of our southwestern provinces to Odesea, and lastly, with the Baltic, by the Neva, which bathes St. Petersburg, and by the Dura, which carries flanced, corn and timber, the produce of our Northern governments to Riga, from whence it is annually borne by thousands of vessels to the coasts of Europe. To give an idea of the importance of this network of navigable communications, we need merely cite the Volga, which, second only to the great American invers, traverses an area of 3,000 square miles, and, together with thirty-eight of its principal affinents, offers a navigable line of communication extending 13,000 kilometres. The Volga might indeed ultimately vie with the Thames, if, instead of the Caspian, it were united with an open sea.

But Nature berself has limited the advantages she has lavished upon us; for these inerivers are navigable only during a short peried of the year; in winter they are ice bound, and in spring, swollen by the melted enows, they overflow their banks and inundate the surrounding country. During the summer several are partially dried up and become unnavigable for vessels of any size at any obstance from their mouths, so that uninterrupted navigation can scarcely be said to extend beyond three of four mouths in the year. Fortunately for us, our Russian produce is not of a nature to be dispensed with, or that need dread any competition, and of thus Western Europe is well aware.

Without affecting the pedant, meteorology also claims its abre of sur attention.

Russia, as we have observed, is one vast plain, bounded by the Frezen Ocean and the Mediterrancean, and from its situation it is alternately exposed to the repeators of the arith plains of Central Asia. This, then, will explain the great variations of temperature to which the Southern provinces are exposed, as also the Crumea, Bessarabla and the banks of the Don. In winter they resemble the highest Northern regions, and in summer are e

semble the highest Northern regions, and in summer are exposed to the most excessive heats. Thus was the Euxire styled by the ancients the Black or Dargerous Sea, by reason of the violent tempests to which it is exposed.

Other countries may exist in like manner, but Nature, there, has provided a fitting antidote, they being for the most part situated in the vicinity of seas or oceans, whose vapors operate alike on win xy colds and summer heats. We possess no each advantage, for although our Polar winds may traverse an arm of the sea in their course, still it is a rea of ice which adds even greater intensity to their coldness; frem the South, the wind reaches us charged with the emanations of the scorching sandy deserts of central Asia; and although this may be serviceable during a short period in New Rusia, where all is chilied by a lengthened winter, yet it soon dries up the soil, and kills what it had previously produced; water, fin these provinces, being a rare commodity.

In the Western governments, covered to a great extent by lakes and marshes, the westerly winds, on the contrary, burng with them damp and noxious vapors, so that from the essentially continental position of Russia in Europe, the conformation of its soil, and still more, on account of its proximity to Asia, the climate is more rigrous than jithat of other countries of Europe situated under the same laitfude. All Paris, in 48 deg. 50 min. N. latt., the average temperature 1839 deg. 7 min. centigrade, whilst at Krementschouck, in Russia, in laitfude 30 deg. 4 min., the average is as low as 7 deg. 7 min. centigrade, whilst at Krementschouck, in Russia, in laitfude and deg. 50 min. N. latt., the average is as low as 7 deg. 7 min. centigrade, whilst at Krementschouck, in Prepulicial infinence of the proximity of Asia: the same average annual isothermal sine, 0 deg. Reaumar, passes the 65th degree, near Arkangel, and the 57th degree North laitinde, near Nijnifequility, in the parish of the proximity of Asia: the same average annual isothermal si

inconvenience, however, a itending these countries is a want of moisture that condemns them to a state of semi-sterility.

The governments on the confines of the Caucasus partake of the Lature of those of the Southern provinces, being interspersed with moving sands and salt soils; they greater part of the surface is, however, fertile.

I shall conclude the present letter by a glance at our agricultural gergraphy.

In the marshy regions are found only the lohen and the heart, so that the pursuits of the inhabitants are confined solely to rearing the reludeer, and the chase.

The icrest region commences in the Southern part of the governments are those of Vologda, Viatka, Olouetz, Kostroma, Perm and Novogorud. In the first of these, the proportion of forest to the whole srea of the province is a 90 to 100, and in the last, as 62 to 100. But as we advance towards the west, the forests grafually disappear; the proportion in the government of Minsk not exceeding 20 per cent, and in the country of the Cossacks, towards the south, being only 2 80.5m1 not unfrequently inferior even to that standard. Our forests, then, extending over 128 millions of hectares, are equal to 29-100 of the colline superfices of Russia, whilst in France, the returns show them to be 16 100.

By this singular distribution we are deprived of many of the advantages which might otherwise result as the distances in Russia are enormous, and the means of communication are difficult; thus, whilst the American system of burning is resorted to un order to render the soil arable in the government of Vologda, endeavors have been fruitlessly made in steppes to planta sforest screen against the deleterious influence of the winds to which we have alluded, as condensing the moistened atmosphes of our southern provinces. Fortunately our navigable or floa able rivers traverse our wooded provinces, and place them in communication, not only with a number of governments of the interior, but also with the whole seaboard of Western Europe.

The Northern agricultura

herself.

CATTLE RAISING IN BUSSIA—INTERESTING STATISTICS.

[From Le Nord.]

The provinces bordering on the Black Sea and Sea of Acoff, viz., Pessarabis, Kherson, Ekaterenoslaff, the Tauride, the country of the Don Cossacks and the government of Stravopol, contain, according to official returns, 4.322.000 head of cattle, or more than half the number, as stared in the statistical reports, of all France. And if to this be added the surrounding governments, which, though more distant, are yet not beyond reach, we have a further amount of 4,027,000, or, for the thirteen southern and southeastern governments, a grand total of 8,350,000 head of cattle.

The number of horned cattle in Russin and Poland in 1846, according to M. Arsenieff's statistical report, amounted to 24,700,000 or 23,000,000 at least, including Finland. M. Tegoborski is of opinion that this is a low estimate, and that two millions and a half ought to be added to the above amount.

To those who are aware of the difficulty of obtaining statistical information, even in the densely populated countries of France or Belgium, where a strictly organized machinery is entirely in the hands of government, and how many omissions, diminutions and wilfur errors occasionally creep into the reports, such persons will feel little surprise that, in a country lite Russis, and accordingly, the official reports are corrected by our economists comparatively with data on which they can more surely rely, and which allow of something like ancapproximation to the exact number.

Taking, however, as a basis, the lower estimate, or 25 millions of horned cattle, this would give us 3 head for creey 12 inhabitants. The proportion in Austeia, in 1830, was 3 to every 10 persons: in Prussis, 1 to 3; and in France, something insalates—relatively, superior to the other great continental States—relatively, for as yet she change of the first reportion of orar accommunity is a first the supply of cattle. Russis atands relatively apperior to the other great continental States—relatively,

capply of cattle. Russia stands "clatively supersor to the inferfrom having brought this branch of rural economy to a satisfactory point. We possess a great number of cattle, but we could keep many more, and derive a far greater amount of profit from them than is the case at present.

We are bound also to confess that the carelesaness of the proprietors and the ignorant routine of the peasants prove a greater obstacle to developement and the improved breeding of cattle, than even the rigor of the climate or the frequent murrains to which they are subject. Government, and distinguished veterinary practitioners have been brought from Demnark, Saxony, and Frunsia and cent into the provinces and scoording to their recommendation a code of sanfary measures and others has been adopted; but of what avail are the best digested regulations, when they are not of the authorities, or of men whose example might be of cervice, these are partly neutralized by the distances the separate the certification of the authorities, or of men whose example might be of cervice, these are partly neutralized by the distances the separate the certification that the recommendation of the authorities, or of men whose example might be of cervice, these are partly neutralized by the distances the separate the certification of the authorities, or of men whose example might be of cervice, these are partly neutralized by the distances the separate the certification of the second of t